



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISCHARGING A SHOTGUN DURING ROBBERY OF GROCERY STORE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Raymond Forbes, 21**, Kansas City, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on December 8, 2003, before U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to one count of discharging a shotgun during a crime of violence.

Melgren stated that Forbes admitted at his plea that on October 27, 2003, he entered the Lipari Brothers Thriftway grocery store, 800 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas, carrying a shotgun. Forbes further admitted that he approached an employee of the store and fired one round from the shotgun into the ceiling and demanded money. Forbes admitted that the employee gave him an undisclosed amount of money from the cash register. Forbes further admitted that he next approached the owner of the store and demanded that the safe be opened, that he and the owner struggled, and the shotgun discharged a second time. Forbes admitted that the owner wrestled the shotgun from Forbes and that Forbes fled the store where he was apprehended by citizens and held until the police arrived.

Forbes faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole. Sentencing is set for March 1, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.

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